

there has been serious hæmorrhage. The chloroformist never dreams of discussing current topics, or the pictures on the walls, or the details of the operation, with anyone. He studies his patients alone—therein only is safety. The chloroformist is regarded as "the man at the wheel," with whom it is forbidden to converse.—I am, etc.,

JOHN SMYTH, M.D.,  
East India United Service Club, St. James's  
Square, S.W., July 10th. Surgeon-Major.

#### VACCINATION AND DEMOCRACY.

SIR,—I hear through a correspondent at Chicago that small-pox is rife in that city at the present time, and that vaccination is being enforced by the municipal authorities with such rigour that "everyone who is not vaccinated will be fined 25 dollars." Whatever faults may be found with democratic governments, that of squeamishness in the presence of danger is not to be laid to their charge; nor is there to be seen any of the truckling to the clamour of a few fanatics that marks the action of our statesmen in this matter of compulsory vaccination.—I am, etc.,

Guildford, June 27th. HENRY TAYLOR.

#### TEMPERANCE BREAKFAST AT BRISTOL.

SIR,—Will you allow me to inform your readers that the National Temperance League has arranged for a breakfast to members of the British Medical Association at Bristol on Thursday, August 2nd, under the presidency of Dr. E. Long Fox, and that I shall be glad to hear from members of the Association who wish to be present?—I am, etc.,

33, Paternoster Row, E.C., July 7th. ROBERT RAE,  
Secretary.

## NAVAL AND MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

#### THE NAVY.

ASSISTANT-SURGEON HENRY STAPLETON EDWARDES, M.D., late of the Royal Navy, died at Alexandra on June 15th, aged 68 years.

Mr. W. H. LONGHEAD, M.B., has been appointed Surgeon and Agent at Donnanook and N. Cotes, July 4th.

#### ARMY MEDICAL RESERVE.

SURGEON-CAPTAIN ANDREW K. RICKARDS, having resigned his Volunteer appointment, ceases to be an officer of the Army Medical Reserve, July 11th.

#### MILITIA MEDICAL STAFF.

SURGEON-LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W. K. CURTIS, 3rd Battalion the Buffs (East Kent Regiment), formerly the East Kent Militia, has resigned his commission, with permission to retain his rank and uniform, July 7th.

Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. PARKES, 3rd and 4th Battalions the Lancashire Fusiliers (late the 7th Royal Lancashire Militia), has also resigned his commission, retaining his rank and uniform, June 18th.

#### THE VOLUNTEERS.

THE undermentioned gentlemen are appointed Surgeon-Lieutenants to the Corps specified, dated July 7th: WILLIAM M'CLELLAND, M.B., 8th Lancashire Artillery; WILLIAM EDWARD RAMSDEN WOOD, M.D., 1st Volunteer Battalion the Cheshire Regiment; WILLIAM MURDOCH, M.D., 3rd (Dumfries) Volunteer Battalion the King's Own Scottish Borderers.

Honorary-Assistant Surgeon E. NASON, 3rd Volunteer Battalion the Devonshire Regiment, has resigned his commission, which was dated November 4th, 1870.

The Volunteer Officers' Decorations has been conferred upon Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel ROBERT F. COOK, M.B., 1st Newcastle-on-Tyne Engineers, Fortress and Railway Forces, Royal Engineers; and upon Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel THOMAS JOYCE, 2nd (the Weald of Kent) Volunteer Battalion the Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Surgeon-Captain A. C. KEEP, M.D., 2nd Volunteer Battalion the Worcestershire Regiment (late the 2nd Worcestershire), has resigned his commission, July 11th.

Surgeon-Captain W. J. STOTT, 2nd Volunteer Battalion the East Lancashire Regiment (late the 3rd Lancashire), has also resigned his commission, with permission to retain his rank and uniform, July 11th.

Surgeon-Lieutenant J. MALPAS, 3rd (Duke of Connaught's Own) Volunteer Battalion the Hampshire Regiment (late the 3rd Hampshire), is promoted to be Surgeon-Captain, July 11th.

Surgeon-Captain W. STUART PALM, M.B., from the 6th (Fifeshire) Volunteer Battalion the Royal Highlanders, is appointed Surgeon-Captain to the 1st Fifeshire Light Horse, July 11th.

Surgeon-Captain J. B. OLIVER, 6th Lancashire Artillery, is promoted to be Surgeon-Major, July 11th.

Mr. WALTER EVELYN JAMES is appointed Surgeon-Lieutenant to the 1st Monmouthshire Artillery, July 11th.

#### VOLUNTEER MEDICAL STAFF CORPS.

SURGEON-LIEUTENANTS J. M'GREGOR ROBERTSON, M.B., W. F. SOMERVILLE, M.D., and A. MOYES, M.B., of the Glasgow Companies, are promoted to be Surgeon-Captains, July 11th.

#### MILITARY NOTES.

It is not generally known that in June Captain Norton put a question to the Secretary of State for War on the disposition of administrative medical officers at Colchester, the headquarters of the Eastern District, and at the headquarters of the Home District. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman's reply to Captain Norton was in effect as follows:

"There are not at present two medical officers of surgeon-colonel's rank serving in the Home District, though there recently were; but a surgeon-major-general now occupies a surgeon-colonel's position at Colchester. The reasons for this inconvenient arrangement are (1) that surgeon-major-generals necessarily serve but a few years in that rank, and (2) that the Indian Government will not receive an administrative medical officer who has not two years to serve. The result has been that for some months past there has been an excess of one surgeon-major-general at home and a deficiency of one in India. The arrangement is not without precedent, but it is obviously inconvenient, and I have it under consideration in what way a remedy can be applied."

This statement on the part of the Secretary of State for War being of importance to the Army Medical Staff, and not having been reported in any paper, we have been at some trouble to obtain and reproduce it in our columns.

It seems clear that some scheme of extending the age for retirement of surgeon-major-generals is under consideration. We have already stated what its effect is likely to be if carried out.

The probable rearrangement of the medical department under the army corps scheme in India may be given in the following tabular system for the Madras corps:

#### Present Disposition.

P.M.O. Troops: Surg.-Maj.-Gen. A.M.S.				
Presidency.	Bangalore and Belgaum District.	Secunderabad and Hyderabad District.	Rangoon.	Mandalay.
Surg.-Col. A.M.S.	Surg.-Col. A.M.S.	Surg.-Col. I.M.S.	Surg.-Col. I.M.S.	Surg.-Col. I.M.S.

#### Proposed Scheme.

P.M.O. Troops: Surg.-Maj.-Gen. I.M.S.				
Presidency.	Bangalore and Belgaum District.	Secunderabad and Hyderabad District.	Rangoon.	Mandalay.
Surg.-Col. I.M.S.	Surg.-Col. I.M.S.	Surg.-Col. A.M.S.	Surg.-Col. A.M.S.	Surg.-Col. I.M.S.

The Hyderabad contingent will have a brigade-surgeon-lieutenant-colonel I.M.S., drawing, probably, Rs. 250, extra for charge. The Chin Hills Command (Burmah) may go to an A.M.S. officer, who will very likely get no extra allowance. The Headquarters Southern District may be located at Wellington.

#### SUBSTANTIVE RANK.

THE extract on the subject of the substantive military rank of army medical officers from the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, which we publish, shows, says the *Broad Arrow*, how sensitive members of the medical profession are with regard to their military status, and there can be no doubt that the Commander-in-Chief in India has taken a right view of the matter specially referred to in the above-mentioned extract. Clearly the adjutant was in the wrong and his excuse frivolous, for the surgeon-major was his senior officer in the performance of duty, and the fact of the scene being the regimental parade ground was an incident of no significance. The adjutant in question must either have intended a deliberate slight to the medical officer—in which case he was sadly wanting in tact, and his action clearly not calculated to raise the tone of his own branch of the service—or he was woefully ignorant of his duty to a senior officer. We can scarcely believe that such an incident would have occurred in the old days.

FROM ONE LEARN ALL writes: The refusal of an adjutant to salute a surgeon-major, or call the men to attention at a health inspection, once for all proves how unsatisfactory the position of medical officers is. The occurrence took place more than a year ago, and the ruling of the Commander-in-Chief in India was in the particular case, and probably only published at the station where the event happened; indeed, it is likely that general publicity has only now been given to it in your columns. Why are military regulations so indefinite on these matters that a ruling is necessary? Simply because "military advisers," being the framers of the regulations, take care that the public shall be kept in the dark as to the military position of departmental officers. For instance, guards turn out to combatant officers of the rank of major-general, but medical officers of that rank only receive a field officer's salute. The rank is not recognised. So in many other points.

\* \* \* There is much to favour our correspondent's suggestion that the regulations are kept purposely indefinite on the subject of recognition